

DUXBURY HISTORY FILE
REFERENCE

It's about time for roundabout

Traffic control project to start in spring

By CHRISTINE WALSH
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DUXBURY — Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Route 14 and Lincoln Street will begin this spring.

The roundabout will slow traffic at a dangerous intersection, said Joseph Shea, chairman of the town's highway safety advisory committee. The project should be completed by October, he said.

"That is an extremely dangerous intersection," Fire Chief William Harriman said. "We've had numerous motor vehicle accidents and several fatalities there over the years."

Town meeting approved land acquisitions for the roundabout project two years ago.

The intersection was studied by the town for seven or eight years, and building a roundabout is the best way to make it safer, Shea said.

"This is what they call traffic calming," he said. "It's a technique to slow everybody down."

Installing traffic lights was seriously considered, but officials decided that was not the right solution, Shea said.

The state will pay for the \$372,000

project, the contractor for which will be P.A. Landers Inc. of Hanover.

A roundabout is similar to a rotary, but there are "some real important differences," Shea said.

The roundabout will be egg-shaped and will have small islands that direct the flow of traffic into it, he said. It will be designed to accommodate the largest trucks on the road.

Building the roundabout will involve removing a set of blinking traffic lights from the intersection. Pavement will be resurfaced, drainage will be improved and new curbing will be installed, according to the state Highway Department.

Harriman said he has been ensured that the roundabout will be large enough for use by fire vehicles.

Shea said he can't wait for the roundabout to be built.

"It is going to be disruptive for a number of months, but this is what progress does," he said.

Shea is scheduled to meet with state officials next Thursday and should find out then when construction will start.

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